

March 3, 2017

Dear Co-Chair Kennedy, Co-Chair Miner, Co-Chair Demicco, Vice Chair Flexer, Vice Chair Gresko, Vice Chair Somers, Ranking Member Harding, and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee,

Re: Testimony re animal bills before the Environment Committee

1) OPPOSE SB 522 -- would allow bear hunting

We often camp in Canada in areas with sizeable bear populations. Canadians and bears co-exist just as they can do in Connecticut. People need to be *educated* on what to do when they see a bear and what they need to do *to not attract* bears (e.g. birdfeeders, accessible garbage, etc.) It's a unique thrill to see a bear in the wild. Connecticut bears also deserve to be safe from hunting and allowed to live peacefully in this state.

2) OPPOSE HB 5499 -- would expand Sunday hunting to allow use of shotguns, rifles, and muzzleloaders. We enjoy Sunday hikes in Connecticut's beautiful woodlands, with our dogs. We are strongly opposed to any expansion of hunting.

3) SUPPORT HB 6335 -- ivory sales ban. Connecticut needs to join New York and New Jersey in a ban against illegal ivory and rhino horn sales. The cruelty to these animals for their ivory and horns is abhorrent to most of us in this state; and in addition, it is funding terrorist activity. Although federal regulations restrict interstate sale, that's not enough.

Connecticut (e.g. Ivoryton) has a long history of supporting the killing of elephants and the ivory trade. Probably many state residents even own antique ivory. This bill does not criminalize possession of ivory currently owned by Connecticut residents. And it would not restrict the sale or purchase by a museum so they could tell the story of the ivory trade in Connecticut. It's time for this bill to become the law!

4) SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS, SB 942 -- Cecil's law, anti-trophy hunting.

Who wasn't disgusted by the trophy hunter who selfishly and thoughtlessly killed a beautiful and protected lion, Cecil?! Most of the "Africa Big Five" animals live in countries where widespread corruption and greed result in a disregard of animals and the welcoming of trophy hunters. The argument that trophy hunting actually supports conservation is ludicrous. I strongly support anti-trophy hunting measures.

5) SUPPORT HB 6334 -- would require registration for all brick-and-mortar animal shelters and allow for inspections and creation of regulations that define standards of care. This is an easy bill to pass and enforce and it will reduce animal suffering and cruelty.

6) Bringing up HB 5615 for a public hearing regarding trapping. On a hike in Connecticut's woods, one of our dogs was caught in a leghold trap. It was a harrowing experience. We were able to release the dog but it made us keenly aware of the suffering leg hold traps cause. Connecticut *finally* needs to follow Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New Jersey are among other states who have banned or severely restricted use of leghold and body-crushing traps

Yours truly,
Elizabeth Abbe, Terry Harlow
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